

importance of the consideration of overcrowding and general hygiene in a very emphatic manner. The bacteriology of the meningococcus and its allied organisms is considered, and the interesting relation of the activities of the pseudomeningococcus, Neisser-gonococcus, micrococcus catarrhalis, micrococcus pharyngis siccus and the chromogenic Gram-negative cocci are fully dealt with, as well as experimental meningitis. He points out the comparative ease with which the examination of carriers may be carried out. Then follows a chapter upon symptomatology. He considers the disease primarily as a bacteremia with subsequent localization in the meninges, making clear in which stage subcutaneous use of the anti-toxin may be of service, and why after meningitis is established it should be given intra-durally. He points out the important significance of a dull tympanic note obtained on percussion of the skull at the fronto-parietal region (Macewen's sign) in older children and adults, and refers to it later in the reports of his numerous cases. Among the later symptoms the importance of recognizing hydrocephalus is discussed and the importance of this rather frequent complication is made manifest. The chapter on laboratory diagnosis deals not only with the method of examining the spinal fluid, but also the blood, urine, herpes and other material. One of the impressive observations the author has to make is that by carefully observing the blood pressure during lumbar puncture and the administration of serum the accidents which sometimes occur during and after the operation may be practically entirely avoided. His statistics are so convincing upon this point as to make it appear that to omit blood pressure readings is to be careless of the interests of the patient.

In the final chapter upon treatment is reflected the vast experience of the writer, and in careful detail are found the modes of dealing, among other things, with the more common spinal types, and also that unfortunate complication, posterior basis meningitis in which the ventricles of the brain should be drained with the administration of the serum intra-cerebrally. The knowledge of this procedure should be possessed at all times in dealing with epidemic meningitis, as undoubtedly by the more or less simple technic described a certain proportion of cases otherwise fatal may be saved.

Of peculiar importance is the matter of quarantine. The recognition of carriers in convalescents and contacts by means of cultures of the throat render the problem of quarantine a comparatively easy one if attacked in a systematic manner. The forcible presentation of this is a fortunate feature of the book.

Upon the whole the writer is to be complimented upon having written probably the best work upon this subject that has appeared.

**"Anesthetics and Their Administration."** By Sir Frederick W. Hewitt, Fourth Edition. Published by Macmillan Co., Ltd., London, 1912. Price \$5.00 net.

In the introduction of the fourth edition of Hewitt's *Anesthetics* the author states that the revolutionary changes that have recently taken place in the practice of anesthesia has necessitated a re-writing of large sections and the addition of two new chapters—one on local and regional anaesthesia and the other on the medico-legal aspects of surgical anesthesia.

The chapter on the physiology of anesthesia is practically exhaustive as regards the results of recent research, and those on the selection of the anesthetic and on the causation and treatment of accidents invaluable to surgeons and anesthetists. The section on nitrous oxide falls short of the general excellence of the rest of this work which for so long maintained its place as the standard authority on anesthetics. Dr. Hewitt has ap-

parently not been influenced by the success that American surgeons have had with nitrous oxide-oxygen anesthesia in major surgery, and this method, the most revolutionary change in the practice of anesthesia, is given small space and is commended only for minor surgery. Dr. Crile's work alone has proven this method to be one of the most remarkable advances in modern surgery and his results are being confirmed daily by surgeons all over the United States. None of the newer types of apparatus for the administration of nitrous oxide is described—possibly the lack of adequate appliances has had much to do with the failure of British surgeons to appreciate the value of this anesthetic. Notwithstanding this omission the work remains the best on the subject and indispensable to the student of anesthetics. M. E. B.

### LANE LECTURES.

The fourteenth series of the Lane Medical Lectures will be given by Prof. Sir Edward Schäfer, Professor of Physiology, University of Edinburgh. These lectures will be upon "The Functions of the Ductless Glands Especially in Relation to other Secreting Organs." They will be delivered in the evenings at eight o'clock on September 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9, in the Lane Hall of the Stanford University Medical Department, Sacramento street near Webster, San Francisco, Cal.

### PHYSICIANS' COLLECTION GUIDE.

This is a little book published by Mr. Lewis P. White, of Los Angeles, for the benefit of physicians and should be of great value to them. It gives some excellent advice on the matter of keeping and collecting accounts, styles of letters to be used in asking for the payment of bills, etc., and also has a digest of the laws of the various States referring to the subject. It will certainly prove to be worth its small cost if the purchaser will but take the trouble to follow the good advice given.

### INTERESTING REPORTS.

The Chemical Laboratory of the A. M. A., has just issued its Fifth annual report and the little volume is of great interest. It contains the analysis of a number of frauds and fakes such as Sanatogen, Resor-Bisnol, Midol, Neurito, etc. It can be had for 50 cents by addressing the Association, 535 Dearborn avenue, Chicago, Ills. and is well worth the money.

### BOOK PUBLISHERS IN SAN FRANCISCO.

We learn that Stacey and Waite are going to begin the publication of medical books in San Francisco and that they are desirous of getting into communication with prospective authors. If you are contemplating the writing of a medical book, correspond with them and see whether you can not have the book published as well at home as abroad.

### AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH.

At the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research, May 5, 1913, the following resolution (the report of the Committee on Statistics and Public Education) was unanimously adopted:

It is the sentiment of this Association that:

(1) The present instruction of medical students in the symptoms and early diagnosis of cancer is seriously deficient.

(2) The medical curriculum should include special lectures in the clinical departments dealing specifically with this subject.

(3) The universities should provide competent lecturers in this subject to address the local medical societies.

(4) The Associate Members of the Association